



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies Cal-West/Sierra Vista Site Mountain View

Berkeley - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has certified the completion of the hazardous substances cleanup at the one-acre Cal-West/Sierra Vista site located at 465 Sierra Vista Avenue in Mountain View on May 15, 2003.

"We are pleased to see this property cleaned up and available for productive redevelopment," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry.

From 1963 to 1985, pesticides were stored and handled at the site where property owners operated a pest control company from a residence. Between 1985 and 1986, all structures were demolished and construction of townhouses began. Construction was halted in 1986 after it was discovered that soil was contaminated with pesticides, primarily DDT and chlordane.

In September of 1997, the site owners entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to perform environmental cleanup at the site. Approved by DTSC in September 1998, the final Removal Action Workplan required excavation of contaminated soils in certain areas and backfilling with clean soil to meet residential cleanup standards. In addition, contaminated soils were consolidated under an asphalt cap in another area of the site.

A deed restriction on the property restricts future land use of the site's capped area to non-residential use. Current property owners propose that the site's 1½ inch asphalt cap eventually be covered with an additional five inches of concrete. This will allow the area to be used as a parking lot for a dozen future townhouses. These townhouses are proposed for an area of the site that is certified for residential use.

The cleanup also included consolidating pesticide-contaminated soil from the backyard of an adjacent residential property on Sierra Vista Avenue, and capping these soils with an asphalt covering to prevent exposure to contaminants.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."